

DIVISION OF FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE INTERPRETATION 07-02

CODE REFERENCE: Montgomery County Executive Regulation 7-06AM

BACKGROUND: Sec. 43 NFPA 101, subsection 12.3.5, add new subsection 12.3.5.1 and renumber the existing subsections 12.3.5.1 through 12.3.5.3. New subsection 12.3.5.1 reads: The following assembly occupancies shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7:

- (1) Bars
- (2) Dance Halls
- (3) Discotheques
- (4) Nightclubs
- (5) Assembly Occupancies with festival Seating

Sec. 44 NFPA 101, add new subsection 12.3.5.2 to read: All new Assembly Occupancies shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7. Sprinkler protection is not required over recreation areas devoid of fuel loading (such as over pool water surface, ice rink ice surface or a court of non-combustible construction), if provided with draftstopping around the area of omission, in accordance with NFPA 13.

Sec. 46 NFPA 101, subsection 13.3.5, add new subsection 13.3.5.1 and renumber the existing subsections 13.3.5.1 through 13.3.5.3. New subsection 13.3.5.1 reads: Where occupant load exceeds 100, the following assembly occupancies shall be protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7:

- (1) Bars
- (2) Dance Halls
- (3) Discotheques
- (4) Nightclubs
- (5) Assembly Occupancies with festival Seating

Sec. 47 NFPA 101, add new subsection 13.3.5.2 to read: Any existing Assembly Occupancy and required exits with an occupant load of 100 or more shall be protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler

system in accordance with Section 9.7. This requirement shall not apply to assembly occupancies used only for worship with fixed seating and not part of a mixed occupancy (see 6.1.14.3).

INTERPRETATION: Rescind section 43. Refer to 2006 edition of NFPA 101 Section 12.3.5.

Rescind section 46. Refer to 2006 edition of NFPA 101 Section 13.3.5.

Rescind section 44 and 47.

It is the intention to require sprinklers in Bars, Dance Halls, Discotheques, Night Clubs, Assembly Occupancies with festival seating, or other Assembly occupancies with similar life safety issues. These types of occupancies can be characterized by one or more of the following conditions determined by the Fire Marshal:

- Low lighting levels
- Entertainment by a live band or recorded music generating above-normal sound levels
- Theatrical stage accessories present
- Later than average operating hours
- Tables and seating arranged or positioned so as to create ill-defined aisles
- Specific area designated for dancing
- Service facilities primarily for alcoholic beverages with limited food service
- High occupant load density.

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FIRE MARSHAL

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